

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A Hard hard caramel containing 1,1-GPM (1-O- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol) in an amount of 52 wt% to 60 wt% (based on the total dry solids of the hard caramel) and sorbitol in an amount of 0.5 wt% to 3.5 wt%.
2. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to Claim 1, wherein the 1,1-GPM content is 54 wt% to 58 wt%.
3. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to Claim 2, wherein the 1,1-GPM content is 55 wt% to 57 wt%.
4. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to one of the preceding Claims, wherein the sorbitol content is 1 wt% to 1.5 wt%.
5. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein the sorbitol content is 1.8 wt% to 3.5 wt%.
6. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the 1,1-GPM content is 54 wt% to 56 wt% and the sorbitol content is 1.8 wt% to 3.5 wt%.
7. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to Claim 6, wherein the 1,1-GPM content is 55 wt% and the sorbitol content is 3 wt%.

8. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to Claim 1, wherein the 1,1-GPM content is 56 wt% to 60 wt% and the sorbitol content is 0.8 wt% to 1.8 wt%.
9. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the hard caramel contains sweeteners, fillers, flavoring agents, coloring agents, flavor enhancers, medicinally active ingredients, food-compatible acids, fat substitutes, mineral salts and/or intense sweeteners.
10. (currently amended) The Hard hard caramel according to ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the hard caramel contains 36.5 wt% to 47.5 wt% of at least one additional sweetener, ~~especially 36.5 wt% to 47.5 wt%~~, selected from the group consisting of 1,6-GPS (6-O- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol), 1,1-GPS (1-O- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol), mannitol, and hydrogenated or non-hydrogenated oligosaccharides.
11. (currently amended) A Method method of producing a hard caramel according to ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution or suspension of a mixture containing 1,1-GPM and sorbitol, ~~especially containing 52 wt% to 60 wt% 1,1-GPM and 0.5 wt% to 3.5 wt% sorbitol~~, is evaporated under the influence of heat, then cooled and molded, yielding a hard caramel.
12. (currently amended) A Method method of producing a hard caramel according to ~~one of the Claims 1 through 10~~ Claim 1, wherein a mixture containing 1,1-GPM and sorbitol, ~~especially containing 52 wt% to 60 wt% 1,1-GPM and 0.5 wt% to 3.5 wt% sorbitol~~, is melt extruded, cooled and molded, yielding a hard caramel.